

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/710,056

Examiner

John M Winter

Applicant(s)

DEMKO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the paper filed in February 8, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,6,7,9-15 and 17-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 November 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

JAMES D. TRAMMELL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Status*

Claims 1,4,6,7,9-15 and 17-27

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 1,4,6,7,9-15 and 17-27 are allowed over the prior art record.

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. The closest prior art of record Ruffin (US Patent 5,578,808) teaches a method for performing cost analysis of an information technology implementation, Conklin (US Patent 6,141,653) teaches a system for negotiations over a network, Nagai et al. (US Patent 6,347,303) teaches a system configuration proposal method.

What they fail to teach or suggest:

A. A method for increasing efficiency of multi-level review of proposed business deals using an organizational management tool, the tool configured with a database of deals and a plurality of authorized reviewers for the deals, said method comprising the steps of:

creating a proposed deal by a user at a business unit included within a business entity, including enabling a business unit to utilize a computer system to upload at least one business dashboard to a database, and populating the at least one business dashboard with information relating to the proposed deal, the proposed deal includes at least one of a detailed description of the proposed deal, a deal pitch, information supporting the proposed deal, and a cover letter, the proposed deal further includes a maximum approver associated with the business entity wherein the user selects the maximum approver based on at least one of approval limitations and deal type;

utilizing a computer system to transmit the proposed deal to a coordinator associated with the business entity;

enabling the coordinator to analyze the proposed deal, validate the information supporting the proposed deal, assign a risk manager to the proposed deal, and selecting a list of reviewers for the proposed deal;

providing a calendar tool configured to schedule at least one meeting among selected reviewers to discuss the proposed deal;

utilizing the computer system to transmit the proposed deal from the coordinator to the risk manager;

forwarding the proposed deal including the risk managers recommendation to a next review level within the business entity and analyzing the deal including the risk managers recommendation,

receiving a review summary from the risk manager including a recommendation as to whether to approve the proposed deal;

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analyzing the proposed deal including the risk managers recommendation and appending a cover memo regarding the proposed deal.

These distinct features renders claim 1 allowable.

Claims 4,6,7 and 9-14 are dependant on claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

B. A system for facilitating multi-level review of proposed business deals within a business entity, said system comprising:  
at least one computer, a server configured to store a database of proposed business deals, said server further configured to: prompt a user to create a proposed deal including at least one of a detailed description of the proposed deal, a deal pitch, information supporting the proposed deal, and a cover letter, the proposed deal further includes a maximum approver associated with the business entity wherein the user selects the maximum approver based on at least one of approval limitations and deal type; upload at least one business dashboard to the database, and populate the at least one business dashboard with information relating to the proposed deal; transmit the proposed deal to a coordinator associated with the business entity, prompt the coordinator to analyze the proposed deal, validate the information supporting the proposed deal, assign a risk manager to the proposed deal, and select a list of reviewers for the proposed deal; transmit the proposed deal from the coordinator to the risk manager; receive a review summary from the risk manager including a recommendation as to whether to approve the proposed deal; transmit the proposed deal including the risk manager's recommendation to a next review level within the business entity; and prompt the next review level to analyze the proposed deal and, if the next review level is the maximum approver, enable the maximum approver to accept or decline the proposed deal; a network connecting said at least one computer to said server; and a user interface including web pages configured to allow users and reviewers to input and receive information relating to the proposed deals.

These distinct features renders claim 15 allowable.

Claims 17-27 are dependant on claim 15 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Winter whose telephone number is (571) 272-6713. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6, 1st Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

JMW

April 17, 2005